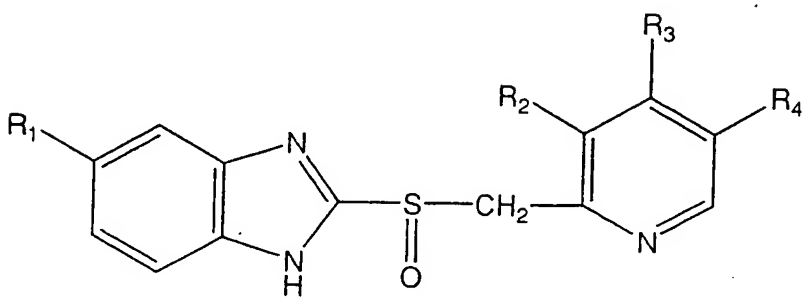
Claims:

1. Oral pharmaceutical preparation in the form of pellets containing a benzimidazole compound of formula I



I

in which R1 is hydrogen, methoxy or difluoromethoxy, R2 is hydrogen, methyl or methoxy, R3 is methoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy or 3-methoxypropoxy and R4 is hydrogen, methyl or methoxy, comprising

(a) an inert core
(b) to which is applied a layer containing an active ingredient which contains the benzimidazole compound of formula I
(c) one or more optional separating layers and
(d) an outer layer comprising an enteric coating,

characterized in that the benzimidazole compound of formula I is mixed together with microcrystalline cellulose.

2. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1, in which the benzimidazole compound of formula I is omeprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole or pantoprazole.

3. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1 or 2, in which the microcrystalline cellulose is composed of particles having a mean particle size of 100 μm or less.

4. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 3, in which the microcrystalline cellulose is composed of particles having a mean particle size of 50 µm or less.

5. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 4, in which the microcrystalline cellulose is composed of particles having a particle size of about 20 µm.

6. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 3, in which the particle size distribution of the microcrystalline cellulose is such that less than 10% of the particles are 250 µm or greater in size and less than 50% of the particles are 75 µm or greater in size.

7. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 4, in which the particle size distribution of the microcrystalline cellulose is such that less than 2% of the particles are 250 µm or greater in size and less than 30% of the particles are 75 µm or greater in size

8. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 5, in which the particle size distribution of the microcrystalline cellulose is such that less than 0.1% of the particles are 250 µm or greater in size and less than 1% of the particles are 75 µm or greater in size

9. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1 or 2, in which the microcrystalline cellulose has a bulk density of 0.30 g/cm^3 or less.

10. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 9, in which the microcrystalline cellulose has a bulk density of 0.28 g/cm^3 or less.

11. Pharmaceutical preparation according to one of claims 1 to 10, in which the layer with the active ingredient contains a binder which is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose or hydroxypropylcellulose.

12. Pharmaceutical preparation according to one of claims 1 to 11, in which the amount of microcrystalline cellulose is 25% to 150%, based on the weight of the amount of benzimidazole compound of formula I.

13. Pharmaceutical preparation according to one of claims 1 to 12, which has a separating layer containing microcrystalline cellulose and a binder.

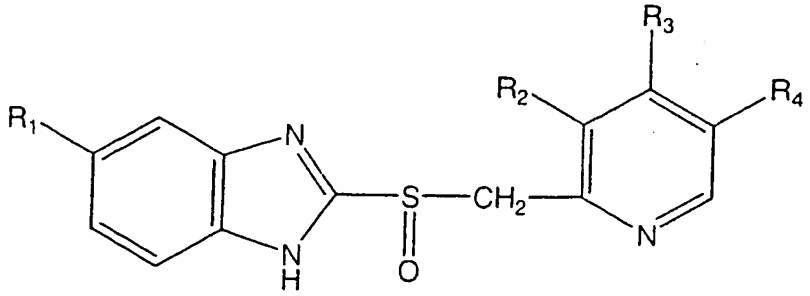
14. Pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 13, in which the separating layer contains a binder which is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose or hydroxypropylcellulose.

15. Pharmaceutical preparation according one of claims 13 or 14, in which the separating layer contains microcrystalline cellulose in the amount of 25% to 100 % by weight based on the amount of binder.

16. Method for manufacturing a pharmaceutical preparation according to one of the claims 1 to 15, in which the benzimidazole compound of formula I is applied to an inert core to thereby form a layer with active ingredient, to which layer with active ingredient a separating layer is optionally applied, and an outer layer in the form of an enteric coating is applied.

17. Method according to claim 16, in which the layer containing the active ingredient is applied from an aqueous dispersion.

18. Use of microcrystalline cellulose for improving the stability of a benzimidazole compound of formula I



in which

R1 is hydrogen, methoxy or difluoromethoxy,

R2 is hydrogen, methyl or methoxy,
R3 is methoxy, 2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy or 3-methoxypropoxy and
R4 is hydrogen, methyl or methoxy,
in the layer with active ingredient of a pellet which is formed from an inert core, a layer containing an active ingredient, one or more optional separating layers and an outer layer consisting of an enteric coating.

19. Use according to claim 18, characterized in that the benzimidazole compound of formula I is omeprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole or pantoprazole.

20. Use according to claim 18 or 19, characterized in that the microcrystalline cellulose is as defined in one of the claims 3 to 10.